

## **Southwestern Virginia Technology Council Recognizes DMME IT Innovation for Web-based e-Forms Centers**



*Award-winning DMME staff pose with Virginia Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra, one of the keynote speakers at the 2008 SWVTC Annual Gala, Tech Expo and Awards Ceremony. From left to right are DMM Director Conrad Spangler, Diane Davis-DGO, Matthew Kent-DGO, Rick Cooper-DGO, Secretary Chopra, Mary Baker-OMIS, Matthew Stanley-OMIS, and DGO Acting Director David Asbury (Not pictured: Bob Wilson, DGO Director).*

For the second year in a row, the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has been recognized by the Southwestern Virginia Technology Council for innovation in its information technology programs. DMME staff attended the Council's annual gala, technology exposition and awards ceremony at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon on May 28, 2008, where they received the 2008 SWVTC High Tech in Government Award. The award recognized DMME's efforts to make electronic forms available to its customers in the mineral mining and gas and oil industries. The success of this project resulted from the teamwork of DMME staff from its Office of Management Information Systems, Division of Mineral Mining and Division of Gas and Oil.

With an \$80,000 competitive grant from the Governor's Productivity Investment Fund, DMME implemented e-Forms centers for Mineral Mining and Gas and Oil customers to allow

applications for permits, licenses and registration and required reports to be submitted through a secure, Web-based interface. Customers once required to submit and electronically sign thousands of pages of paper forms each year can now fulfill most of their submission requirements in a secure, paperless environment.

DMME's e-Forms centers offer significant benefits to industry, the public, and the agency. For industry customers, the online e-Forms applications provide a secure, streamlined process of submitting permit applications and reports to the agency. The Web-based interface enables instant delivery of information as soon as the user completes the forms. Data entry is streamlined and simplified through use of automatic population of data fields, dropdown lists and automated data validation. The system is available 24x7.

The Southwestern Virginia Technology Council was organized in 1999. The Council exists to lead Southwestern Virginians in addressing technology issues for business, education and government with the purpose of enhancing the vitality and social well-being of Southwestern Virginia. Council membership includes businesses, institutions and individuals from the Wytheville region to the far western corner of Virginia.